

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A gusseted bag, comprising
a body having opposing broad face panels defining a volume therebetween for holding a quantity of contents, an end of the body forming an expandable gusset between the broad face panels; and

a reclosable bag closure between a folding region of the expandable gusset and a corresponding adjacent edge region of one of the broad face panels, the closure comprising elongated, mating bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, the gusset folding region and the corresponding adjacent edge region of the broad face panel overlapping the bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, such that when the closure is opened a bag opening is formed between the expandable gusset and said one of the broad face panels of the bag, to access the bag contents,

wherein the bag closure comprises a unitary, folded strip carrying the mating bands on a front face thereof, a back face of the folded closure strip defining one side of a fill opening.

2. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the body has two opposing gussets between the broad face panels on opposite ends of the bag, the bag closure being disposed adjacent one of the gussets.

3. (Original) The bag of claim 2 wherein the opposing gussets are disposed at top and bottom ends of the bag, and wherein the bag is constructed to rest on its bottom end when filled.

4. (Original) The bag of claim 2 wherein the bag is constructed to rest on a bottom end thereof when filled, with the two opposing gussets disposed along opposite vertical sides of the bag.

5. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the bag is constructed to rest on a bottom end thereof when filled.

6. (Original) The bag of claim 5 wherein the gusset and closure are disposed at a top end of the bag with the bag standing on its bottom end.

7. (Original) The bag of claim 5 wherein the gusset and closure are disposed along a vertical side edge of the bag with the bag standing on its bottom end.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The bag of claim 9¹ wherein the bag closure comprises a unitary strip-form base along which the mating bands extend in parallel, the base defining a frangible burst membrane between the mating bands, the membrane arranged to be breached to gain initial access to the bag contents.

11. (Original) The bag of claim 10 wherein the burst membrane is disposed inboard of the mating bands.

12. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein one longitudinal side of the closure is attached to the bag body only outboard of the mating bands.

13. (Original) The bag of claim 12 wherein said one longitudinal side of the closure is disposed adjacent said one of the broad face panels of the bag, an opposite longitudinal side of the closure being secured to the gusset.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the bag body comprises two opposing weld flanges outboard of the bag closure and exposed to be sealed together after filling.

16. (Original) The bag of claim 15 wherein the bag body defines a frangible tear line along an inboard edge of at least one of the weld flanges, for tearing the weld flanges from the bag to access the contents after filling.

17. (Original) The bag of claim 1 further comprising a wicket extension along a free edge of one of the face panels outboard of the closure, the wicket extension defining at least one hole therethrough.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the gusset extends between sealed edges of the bag.

20. (Original) The bag of claim 19 wherein the bag closure also extends between the sealed edges of the bag.

21-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The bag of claim 12 wherein said one longitudinal side of the closure comprises one of a hook strip and a loop strip, and an opposite longitudinal side of the closure comprises the other of the hook strip and the loop strip.

33. (New) A gusseted bag, comprising

a body having opposing broad face panels defining a volume therebetween for holding a quantity of contents, an end of the body forming an expandable gusset between the broad face panels; and

a reclosable bag closure between a folding region of the expandable gusset and a corresponding adjacent edge region of one of the broad face panels, the closure comprising elongated, mating bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, the gusset folding region and the corresponding adjacent edge region of the broad face panel overlapping the bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, such that when the closure is opened a bag opening is formed between the expandable gusset and said one of the broad face panels of the bag, to access the bag contents,

wherein the bag closure comprises a unitary strip-form base along which the mating bands extend in parallel, the base defining a frangible burst membrane between the mating bands, the membrane arranged to be breached to gain initial access to the bag contents.

34. (New) The bag of claim 33 wherein the burst membrane is disposed inboard of the mating bands.

35. (New) A gusseted bag, comprising

a body having opposing broad face panels defining a volume therebetween for holding a quantity of contents, an end of the body forming an expandable gusset between the broad face panels; and

a reclosable bag closure between a folding region of the expandable gusset and a corresponding adjacent edge region of one of the broad face panels, the closure comprising elongated, mating bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, the gusset folding region and the corresponding adjacent edge region of the broad face panel overlapping the bands of hooks and hook-engageable fibers, such that when the closure is opened a bag opening is formed between the expandable gusset and said one of the broad face panels of the bag, to access the bag contents,

wherein one longitudinal side of the closure is attached to the bag body only outboard of the mating bands.

36. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein said one longitudinal side of the closure is disposed adjacent said one of the broad face panels of the bag, an opposite longitudinal side of the closure being secured to the gusset.

37. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein said one longitudinal side of the closure comprises one of a hook strip and a loop strip, and an opposite longitudinal side of the closure comprises the other of the hook strip and the loop strip.

38. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein the body has two opposing gussets between the broad face panels on opposite ends of the bag, the bag closure being disposed adjacent one of the gussets.

39. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein the bag is constructed to rest on a bottom end thereof when filled.

40. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein the bag closure comprises a unitary strip-form base along which the mating bands extend in parallel, the base defining a frangible burst membrane between the mating bands, the membrane arranged to be breached to gain initial access to the bag contents.

41. (New) The bag of claim 40 wherein the burst membrane is disposed inboard of the mating bands.

42. (New) The bag of claim 35 wherein the gusset extends between sealed edges of the bag.

43. (New) The bag of claim 42 wherein the bag closure also extends between the sealed edges of the bag.